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# The Great British Recording Studios

*By Howard Massey*



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## The Great British Recording Studios By Howard Massey

(Book). The Great British Recording Studios tells the story of the iconic British facilities where many of the most important recordings of all time were made. The first comprehensive account of British recording studios ever published, it was written with the cooperation of the British APRS (Association of Professional Recording Services, headed by Sir George Martin) to document the history of the major British studios of the 1960s and 1970s and to help preserve their legacy. The book surveys the era's most significant British studios (including Abbey Road, Olympic, and Trident), with complete descriptions of each studio's physical facilities and layout, along with listings of equipment and key personnel, as well as details about its best-known technical innovations and a discography of the major recordings done there. Seamlessly interweaving narrative text with behind-the-scenes anecdotes from dozens of internationally renowned record producers and a wealth of photographs (many never published before), this book brings to life the most famous British studios and the people who created magic there. Meticulously researched and organized, The Great British Recording Studios will inform and inspire students of the recording arts, music professionals, casual music fans, and anyone interested in the acoustically pristine facilities, groundbreaking techniques, and innovative artists and technicians that have shaped the course of modern recording.



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## The Great British Recording Studios By Howard Massey Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"One of the most important books ever written about recording ... a treasure trove of information about the British studio scene during its most explosive period of growth." --Malcolm Atkin, Chair, Association of Professional Recording Services

"The Great British Recording Studios is a sweeping account of the golden age of UK recording. In it, author Howard Massey chronicles the cultural forces and technological innovations that shaped the sound of landmark records by The Beatles, The Who, the Rolling Stones, and many others. His profiles of iconic studios from Abbey Road to AIR to Olympic leave no stone unturned detailing everything from construction history to equipment lists to discographies to sessions anecdotes, including vintage marketing materials and many never-before-seen photos." --Electronic Musician Magazine

"Let's not mince words. As a touring musician-producer-engineer-author-music journalist, Howard Massey is uniquely qualified to do what he has accomplished in writing *The Great British Recording Studios*. He has documented the definitive history of the British recording studios that brought the art of sound recording to a level that spurred, and was spurred by, a breathtaking outpouring of musical creativity in the 1960s and '70s—led, of course, by The Beatles and their insatiable curiosity regarding sound and sonic effects....Too much praise cannot greet *The Great British Recording Studios*. An invaluable historical document, and also one rousing ride through the most incredible musical era of the 20th Century. This book has it all. Mark it essential." - Mix Magazine

"With a foreword by Sir George Martin, former musician-producer Howard Massey has constructed an exhaustive, beautifully presented account of very major studio from those seminal times, giving detailed histories, discographies, layouts, technical breakdown and over 100 memories from the artists and production staff who used them...With most of these studios now gone, this is the first time anyone has attempted such a project. This fascinating tome will now stand as the definitive account." - Prog Magazine

### From the Inside Flap

From the time that Thomas Alva Edison invented the phonograph, music has become an integral part of everyday life. The so-called "British Invasion" of the 1960s and 1970s spearheaded what was inarguably one of the most important and creative periods in the development of recorded music. *The Great British Recording Studios* tells the story of the iconic English recording studios of that era--places such as Abbey Road, Olympic, Trident, AIR, Advision, Island, and Apple--and provides a sweeping panorama of the people, places, groundbreaking techniques, and innovative artists and technicians who shaped the course of modern recording.

Meticulously researched and richly detailed, *The Great British Recording Studios* provides comprehensive information about the history, construction techniques, acoustic treatments, room dimensions, and equipment used by the key English studios during those heady times, supplemented with many never before published photographs and more than a hundred entertaining "Stories from the Studio" that take the reader behind the scenes of the making of some of the world's best-loved records.

*The Great British Recording Studios* is endorsed by and was written with the cooperation of the UK-based Association of Professional Recording Services, headed by Sir George Martin.

### From the Back Cover

Back in the "golden era" of pop music -- roughly from the mid-1950s, when rock 'n' roll made its noisy

entrance on the scene, until the late 1970s, when the first digital audio devices such as drum machines made their appearance -- there was a distinct "British sound" that characterized the records being made in Great Britain and distinguished them from those being created in America. In some cases the sonic disparities are striking, in others subtle, but there is little question that the records coming out of the studios in Great Britain sounded objectively different from those emerging from American recording facilities. The Beatles, in collaboration with George Martin and the engineers at EMI, led the way, unceasingly pushing the envelope as they crafted recordings that constantly challenged the limits of what their audience would accept. Other artists of the era followed, incorporating new elements into their music as they constantly tested and stretched the limits of the production tools at hand. By the mid-1960s, the best British recordings were as good as any made in America, or anywhere else in the world, for that matter.

Essentially, then, the "British sound" was derived from a fortuitous combination of the right people being in the right place at the right time, having the right equipment (or lack thereof) at hand to realize their creative vision, and the ability to somehow overcome the convolution of a bewildering series of dueling technical "standards" -- all this, along with a healthy dose of serendipity and misadventure.

A story, in other words, worth telling.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sheila Walker:**

The experience that you get from The Great British Recording Studios could be the more deep you digging the information that hide into the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The Great British Recording Studios giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this specific The Great British Recording Studios instantly.

#### **Annie Boyd:**

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#### **Lori Parker:**

With this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list is actually The Great British Recording Studios. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review

this reserve you can get many advantages.

**Michael Jones:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got scholars? We believe that that question was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. So you know that little person including reading or as examining become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update concerning something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is actually The Great British Recording Studios.

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